

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRISTS

Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at 9:15 AM

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut
Conference Room "F", Second Floor**

CALL TO ORDER

I MINUTES

Review and approval of the minutes of the February 28, 2007 meeting.

II OLD BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor

B. Proposed Legislation Update

Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Department of Public Health

III ADDITIONAL ITEMS

IV ADJOURN

A Meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on February 28, 2007 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in Conference Room E on the second floor.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward F. Pinn, O.D., Chairman
 Leora Berns, O.D.
 Henry W. Siegrist
 John Sienko, O.D.
 Patricia Henrietta Simmons
 Eugene Winakor, O.D.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
 Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations
 Gary Griffin, Investigations Supervisor, DPH

Dr. Pinn called the meeting to order at 9:15.

I. MINUTES – November 8, 2006

The minutes of November 8, 2006 were reviewed. Dr. Winakor made a motion, seconded by Dr. Berns, to approve the minutes as edited. The motion passed with all in favor.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin that there are five optometrist complaints under investigation by the Department of Public Health. The cases, which involve standard of care issues, are awaiting review by an optometrist consultant. Currently no cases have been referred to the Department's Legal Office.

B. Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility for Optometrists (CELMO)

The Board reviewed a DVD presentation from the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry regarding the CELMO program, which is an initiative to facilitate license mobility for optometrists. Dr. Berns made a motion, seconded by Ms. Simmons, to allow the Department of Public Health to utilize CELMO as a method towards licensure by endorsement.

C. Proposed Legislation

Bill 7159 An Act Updating the Scope of Practice of Optometry. Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, Department of Public Health Office of Practitioner Licensure and Investigations was present for this discussion. The Board expressed its support for this legislation and urges the DPH to support it as well.

Bill 7155 An Act Concerning a Professional Assistance Program for Health Care Professionals Stanley Peck, Section Chief, Legal Office, Department of Public Health provided an overview of proposed legislation that would establish a program for impaired health care practitioners. Dr. Sienko made a motion, seconded by Dr. Winakor, to support the concept of a program for impaired health care practitioners provided the following conditions are met

- implementation of a single program,
- confidentiality for program participants
- referral to DPH of those individuals who fail to comply with the program conditions
- program accountability to the DPH.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Winakor announced he will be retiring from practice in July 2007.

IV. ADJOURN

Dr. Sienko made a motion, seconded by Dr. Winakor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sienko, O.D.
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists